

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 23 (cancelled)

Claim 24. (new) A device for gradient compensation, comprising an arc-shaped bow slidably arranged in a guide means, the bow protruding at least on one end from the guide means and said at least one bow end constituting a standing leg for the device, at least one additional supporting member, said guide means being a rigid guide means, the bow being joined to the device under an angle, and the bow, in use, being arranged at an angle with respect to the perpendicular such that the bow is frictionally fixed in the guide means under the influence of gravity.

Claim 25. (new) A device according to claim 24, wherein the angle with respect to the perpendicular is between 30° and 60°.

Claim 26 (new) A device according to claim 24, wherein the angle with respect to the perpendicular is approximately 45°.

Claim 27. (new) A device according to claim 24, further comprising a resilient resetting means disposed such that the resetting means is capable of operationally resetting the arc-shaped bow in the unloaded state to the initial position thereof.

Claim 28. (new) A device according to claim 27, wherein the resetting means comprises two coil springs each attached on one of the portions of the bow protruding from the guide means.

Claim 29. (new) A device according to claim 24, further comprising an outer diameter of the bow corresponds substantially to an inner diameter of the guide means.

Claim 30. (new) A device according to claim 24, wherein the guide means is an arc-shaped guide tube.

Claim 31. (new) A device according to claim 24, wherein the guide means is formed of mutually spaced apart arc-shaped tube sections or rings.

Claim 32. (new) A device according to claim 24, further comprising a supporting surface.

Claim 33. (new) A device according to claim 32, wherein the supporting surface is rigidly joined to the guide means and/or the at least one additional supporting member.

Claim 34. (new) A device according to claim 32, wherein the guide means and the bow extend in a plane and the plane includes an angle with the perpendicular to the supporting surface which is preferably between 30° and 60°.

Claim 35. (new) A device according to claim 34, wherein the angle is approximately 45°.

Claim 36. (new) A device according to claim 24, wherein the at least one additional supporting member is a strut.

Claim 37. (new) A device according to claim 24, wherein the at least one additional supporting member is an arc-shaped bow slidably disposed in a guide means.

Claim 38. (new) A device according to claim 37, wherein respective planes of extension of two guide means include an angle with each other which is preferably from 70° to 110°.

Claim 39. (new) A device according to claim 38, wherein the angle is approximately 90°.

Claim 40. (new) A ladder comprising a device according to claim 24, wherein the at least one additional supporting member is an upper free end of the ladder.

Claim 41. (new) A ladder according to claim 40, wherein the plane of extension of the guide mans includes an angle with the plane in which the ladder extends which is preferably between 0° and 90°.

Claim 42. (new) A ladder according to claim 41, wherein the angle is approximately 25°.

Claim 43. (new) A road traffic sign comprising a device according to claim 24.

Claim 44. (new) A wheelbarrow comprising a device according to claim 24, wherein a wheel of the wheelbarrow constitutes the at least one additional supporting member.

Claim 45. (new) A motorcycle comprising a device according to claim 24, wherein the bow is joined to the motorcycle as a rotatable main stand and a front wheel or a rear wheel of the motorcycle constitutes the at least one additional supporting member in use of the device.

Claim 46. (new) A table comprising a device according to claim 24.

Claim 47. (new) A fence comprising vertical fence posts and horizontal fence members connected thereto, wherein at least one of the fence posts comprises a device according to claim 24.

Claim 48. (new) A fence according to claim 47, wherein each vertical fence post is substantially a rod having at a lower end thereof the arc-shaped bow and a strut.

Claim 49. (new) A fence according to claim 47, wherein the vertical fence posts are provided with connecting members for hooking the horizontal fence members, and the horizontal fence members are provided with corresponding connecting members.

Claim 50. (new) A fence according to claim 47, wherein at least one of the horizontal fence members is formed of at least two vertical struts and at least two horizontal struts that are connected to each other in articulated fashion such that the vertical struts are displaced parallel to each other in a plane of the horizontal fence members.